

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4841

1. Name

Historic 611 - 625 North Bradford Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 611 - 625 North Bradford Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	X private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site
☐ moved:
date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of eight two-story, two-bay wide late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and sheet metal cornices were built c. 1895, after the use of wood was outlawed for cornices in 1892, because of the potential fire hazard. In these early years the sheet metal cornices closely resembled the form of the then currently popular late-Italianate-style wood cornices, with their long scroll-sawn brackets. All of the houses have dark red, painted brick facades, their original appearance.

The houses are two stories in height, 12' wide (12'4" for the north end house), and occupy lots 63' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and are painted a dark red, their original color. Each house has a single hooded chimney located near the front and rear of the house. The shed roof is capped by a sheet metal cornice, consisting of a crown molding supported by three long brackets decorated with grooves that connect to a lower molding strip and end with a distinct trefoil pattern. The brackets and lower molding strip frame a brick frieze area.

The door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, with plain tympanums. The sills are wood. The windows are filled with mainly original 1/1 sash, but some have been boarded over. Doorways have single-light transoms and show a variety of replacement door types. The houses sit on low basements lit by a single-light sash. Each front door is reached by three brick or concrete steps.

8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1895

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of late-Italianate-style houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century. It is particularly interesting as showing the way in which late-Italianate-style wooden cornices were translated into sheet metal after 1892, when the use of wood was outlawed for use in cornices.

The houses were built according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period 1870 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 to \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900. Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the approximately \$750 purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

Most of the houses sold to mainly German-American semi-skilled tradesmen and laborers employed in nearby factories, who received mortgages from a variety of local building and loans, many of them sponsored by the German community.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

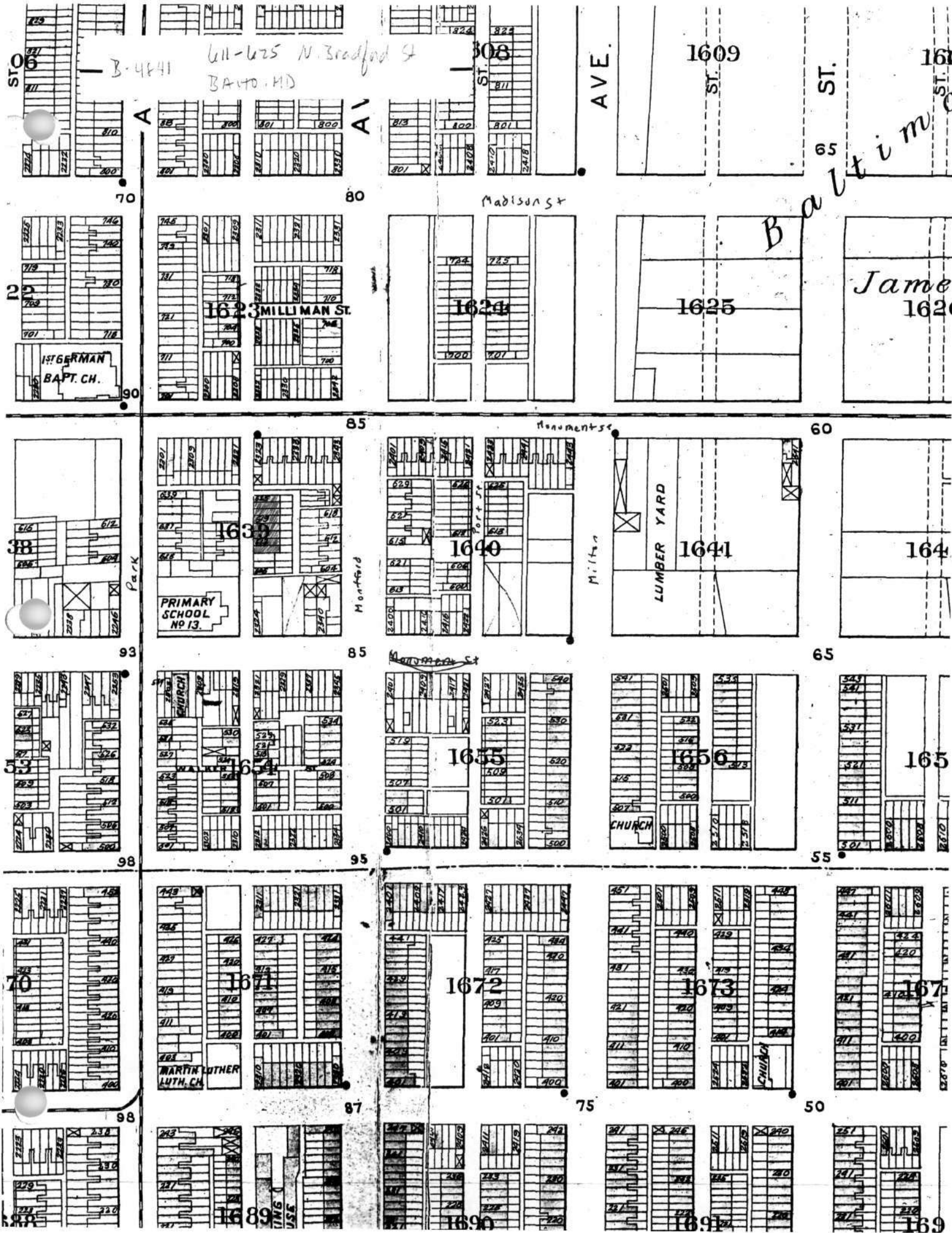
Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023



611-625 N. Bradford St
BALTO. MD

AVE.

1609

ST. 65

ST. 16

James 1620

A

A1

ST. 08

Madison St

B

1623 MILLMAN ST.

1624

1625

1620

85

Monument St

60

38

Park

1639

PRIMARY SCHOOL NO 13

Montford

1640

Milton

LUMBER YARD

1641

164

93

85

ST. 08

65

53

1654

1655

1656

165

98

95

55

70

1671

1672

1673

167

MARTIN LUTHER LUTH. CH.

CHURCH

98

87

75

50

99

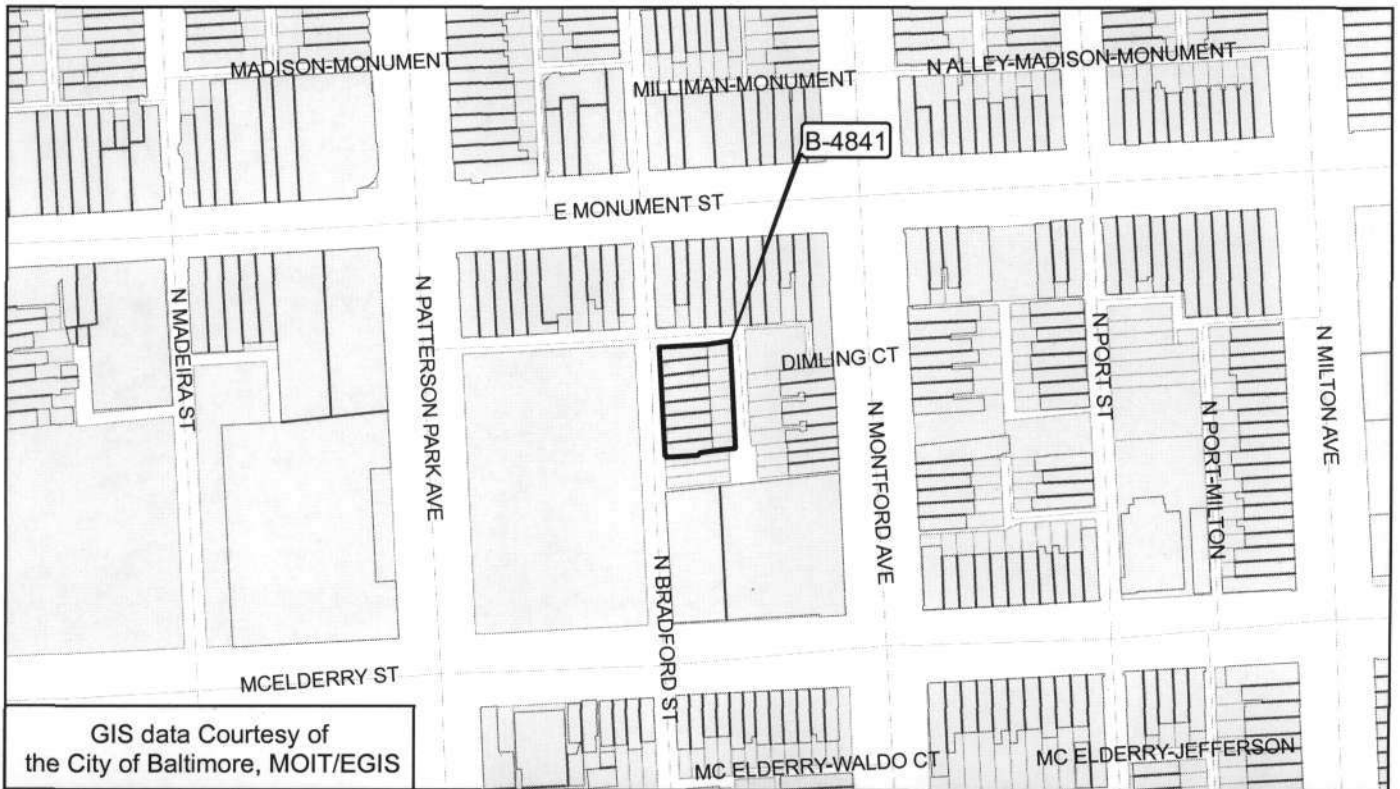
1689

1690

1691

169

B-4841
611-625 N. Bradford Street
Block 1639, Lots 051-058
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





B-4641

611-625

N. Bradford St.

BALTO. MD

M. Hayward

4/00

MD SHPO 1/2



B-4841

619-621 N. Bradford
St.

BALTO, MD

M. Hayward

6/00

MD SHPD

2/2